

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01374 122052Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 OPIC-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /065 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2052

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: JESUINO PRESS CONFERENCE: MARCH 12

REF: LISBON 1371

1. PARTICIPATION OF PARTIES IN ELECTION:

ASKED ABOUT PARTICIPATION OF PPD AND CDS IN ELECTION, INFORMATION MINISTER JESUINO SAID THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WILL DECIDE WHETHER PARTIES AT BOTH ENDS OF POLITICAL SPECTRUM SUPPORT THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) PROGRAM.

2. "SUSPICIOUS" PRESENCE OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN SETUBAL:

THE PRESENCE IN PORTUGAL OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IS "NORMAL AND DESIRABLE," AND HAS BEEN SO SINCE APRIL 25. MANY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS ARE ACCREDITED IN PORTUGAL ON PERMANENT BASIS. THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL IN THE PRESENCE AT SETUBAL OF FOUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS. (COMMENT: PORTUGUESE JOURNALIST ASKING QUESTION HINTED BROADLY THAT REPORTERS IN QUESTION WERE UP TO NO GOOD.) ASKED IF GOP COULD DO ANYTHING ABOUT MISINTERPRETATIONS OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL CREATED BY FOREIGN PRESS, JESUINO AFFIRMED GOP BELIEF IN A FREE AND OPEN PRESS AND STATED THAT PORTUGAL IS A SMALL COUNTRY WHICH WILL HAVE TO PUT ITS TRUST IN "ADVANCED CIVILIZATIONS" TO INTERPRET CORRECTLY THE NEW DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY THAT PORTUGAL IS BUILDING.

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3. FATE OF GENERAL DAMIAO:

NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY BETWEEN GOP AND GERMAN
AUTHORITIES REGARDING GRANTING OF SAFE CONDUCT OF GENERAL
DAMIAO FROM WEST GERMAN EMBASSY TO SPAIN.

4. ECONOMIC PROGRAM:

NO RADICALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC PROGRAM IS ANTICIPATED.

5. ASKED TO COMMENT ON BRIG. OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO'S
REMARKS ON THE SECURITY OF THE AMBASSADOR, JESUINO EXPLAINED
THAT WHAT OTELO MEANT WAS THAT 100 PERCENT SECURITY WOULD
NATURALLY BE DIFFICULT TO GUARANTEE, SINCE ONE CANNOT FORESEE
EVERYTHING. HE ADDED THAT TO INTERPRET OTELO'S COMMENTS AS
PROVOCATORY INSINUATIONS TO MOTIVATE THE PEOPLE IS NOT TO
UNDERSTAND THE SPIRIT IN WHICH THEY WERE MADE. (COMMENT:
BULLSHIT, BUT WELCOME). SEE REFTEL FOR JESUINO'S FIRST
COMMENT ON SAME SUBJECT.

6. PRESS CONFERENCE WAS WELL ATTENDED BY FOREIGN AND PORTUGUESE
JOURNALISTS. WAS CARRIED LIVE ON RADIO AND TV.
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Message Attributes

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